

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Please amend claim 6, cancel claims 11-22 and add new claims 25-31 as follows:

1. (original) An analytical test element for blood analyses in particular by a single-use rapid test comprising a substrate body having a microfluidic channel structure for the flow transport of a blood sample from an application site to at least one analytical site, wherein the channel structure comprises a dilution channel which comprises separation means for retaining corpuscular blood components and a sample channel which conveys a blood sample aliquot to be diluted and joins the dilution channel at a mixing site.
2. (original) The analytical test element of claim 1, further comprising a junction which divides the sample flow into parallel flows in the sample channel and the dilution channel.
3. (original) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the channel cross-sections of the sample and dilution channel are adjusted relative to one another to set a predetermined dividing ratio for the subflows of the blood sample that pass through.
4. (original) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the flow rate through the dilution channel is more than 10-fold higher than the flow rate through the sample channel.

5. (original) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the flow rate through the dilution channel is more than 100-fold higher than the flow rate through the sample channel.
6. (currently amended) The analytical test element of ~~[[the]]~~ claim 1, wherein a filter element ~~[[consisting in particular of a glass fibre fleece or a microporous filter matrix or filter membrane]]~~ is disposed as a separation means in the dilution channel.
7. (original) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the dilution channel has a microstructure geometry designed to retain cell components of the blood sample as a separation means.
8. (original) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the mixing site further comprises a lysing chamber provided with a lysing agent to haemolyse the diluted blood sample.
9. (original) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the channel structure comprises a first analytical channel to determine the total haemoglobin value (Hb) of the blood sample and a second analytical channel for determining a glycohaemoglobin value (HbA1c) of the blood sample.
10. (original) The analytical test element of claim 9, wherein the analytical channels can be loaded with the diluted blood sample via a branch acting as a flow divider downstream of the mixing site.
- 11-22. (cancelled)
23. (original) A method for carrying out blood analyses comprising moving a blood sample in an analytical test element via a microfluidic channel structure from an application site to at least one analytical site, wherein liquid components are obtained

from the blood sample and added to a portion of the blood sample to be analysed in order to dilute it.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein a whole blood sample as the starting material is fed in parallel subflows into a dilution channel and a sample channel of the channel structure and the subflow that has been depleted of cell components in the dilution channel is joined with the subflow in the sample channel at a mixing site.
25. (new) The analytical test element of claim 1, wherein the channel structure at least in a section thereof has a capillary geometry for an automatic capillary-active flow transport.
26. (new) The analytical test element of claim 25, wherein the channel structure has wall structures for regulating the flow transport.
27. (new) The analytical test element of claim 26, wherein the wall sections are modified by plasma treatment or coating.
28. (new) The analytical test element of claim 25, wherein the channel structure has valve elements for regulating the flow transport.
29. (new) The analytical test element of claim 28, wherein the valve elements are formed by hydrophilic or hydrophobic channel sections.
30. (new) The analytical test element of claim 25, wherein the flow transport in the channel structure can be regulated by local application of pressure or centrifugal forces.
31. (new) The analytical test element of claim 6, wherein the filter element comprises a glass fibre fleece or a microporous filter matrix or filter membrane.